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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, G-1 300 ARMY PENTAGON WASHINGTON DC 20310-0300

AHRC-PDO-IP

0 6 MAR 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Support for the Army Voting Assistance Program (AVAP)

- 1. The 2006 Federal Elections are quickly approaching and all Soldiers deserve our best efforts to enable them to vote in the coming elections. The Army's goal is 100 percent contact of all Soldiers to ensure they understand their right to vote no matter where they are assigned and to provide them registration and voting information and assistance.
- 2. Commanders' responsibilities:
 - Appoint Voting Assistance Officers (VAOs), in writing, at every level of command.
 - Ensure VAOs attend the Federal Voting Assistance Program training within 90 days of appointment.
 - Provide Unit VAOs the necessary time and resources required to perform their voting assistance duties.
 - Receive periodic updates on the status of command compliance with the AVAP.
- 3. The VAO is responsible for providing instructions on the absentee voting process. Each Soldier should know who is appointed as his or her Unit VAO. The Unit VAO can assist Soldiers and their voting-age family members with individual state information, along with other important facts about faxing absentee ballots, the use of Federal Write-In Ballots, and mailing deadlines.
- 4. I appreciate your continued command emphasis on the Voting Assistance Program. Your Senior VAOs maintain the responsibility to monitor subordinate VAOs and report monthly installation compliance with the AVAP. This program must remain a top priority for all leaders to ensure its success. Thank you for your continued support of this very important program.

F. L. HAGENBECK

Lieutenant General, GS Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1

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